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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(BISSELL, JANE E.)

SUBJECT: W/W JANE ELLEN BISSELL

REF: A) QUITO 8281; B) STATE 292880; C) QUITO 7501

1. CONGRESSMEN JEROME AMBRO, FRANK HORTON, MATTHEW MCHUGH,
AND SENATOR JACOB JAVITS INTERESTED.

2. CONGRESSMAN AMBRO REQUESTED DEPARTMENT DISCUSS BISSELL
DISAPPEARANCE WITH HIM AND TWO STAFF MEMBERS. THIS WAS
DONE BY OFFICERS FROM CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON STAFF AND SCS
W/W FOR ONE HOUR AND HALF AFTERNOON DECEMBER ONE IN HIS
OFFICE. CONGRESSMAN AMBRO POINTED OUT APPARENT INCONSIS-
TENCIES AND INADEQUACIES CONTAINED IN POLICE INVESTIGATION
REPORT. CONGRESSMAN AMBRO PROVIDED DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS
LISTED BELOW WHICH HE FEELS WOULD FACILITATE LOCATION OF
BISSELL.

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3. DEPARTMENT FORWARDS LIST FOR USE IN ATTEMPTING TO

OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESENT W/W OF BISSELL.

4. FYI: CONGRESSMAN AMBRO, WHO HAS HAD POLICE AND INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE, SUSPECTS PENSION CHAMQUITA OWNER CONNECTED TO BISSELL'S DISAPPEARANCE. CONGRESSMAN

IS DISATISFIED WITH ECUADORIAN POLICE HANDLING OF CASE AND ALSO BELIEVES EMBASSY MAY HAVE OR BE ABLE OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

5. BISSELL DISAPPEARANCE ALSO GAINING INCREASING PRESS ATTENTION PARTICULARLY NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND PRESS.

6. QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

1. ARE THE TWO MALE FOREIGN NATIONALS MENTIONED IN THE POLICE REPORT THE SAME MAN? WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THESE OR THIS INDIVIDUAL (S)?

2. WHERE DID JANE BISSELL SPEND THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 1 AND WITH WHOM?

3. DID BISSELL'S GIRLFRIEND, GERALDINE CROUCH, ARRIVE IN BANOS OCTOBER 5TH AS STATED IN STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE OF OCTOBER 29TH AND IN HER LETTER TO THE BISSELLS OCTOBER 21ST, OR DID SHE ARRIVE MONDAY, OCTOBER 11 AS STATED IN REPORT?

4. WAS JANE BISSELL TRAVELING WITH ANY OTHER LUGGAGE OTHER THAN HIKING, CAMPING EQUIPMENT MENTIONED IN VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCES? IF SO, WHERE IS IT?

5. HOW DID BISSELL GET FROM QUITO TO BANOS ON EITHER OCTOBER 1 OR OCTOBER 2? DID SHE HAVE A TRAVELING COMPANION ON THAT TRIP?

6. COCA TAXI PASSENGER LIST HAD DETAILED PASSPORT DATA ON BISSELL AND CROUCH. WHY NOT ON MALE FOREIGN NATIONAL WHOM GIRLS WERE APPARENTLY TRAVELING WITH?

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7. LT. COL. JOSE RIVERA IN BANOS SAID DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT BISSELL SPENT NIGHT OF OCTOBER 2ND IN COMPANY OF AMERICAN MALE. HOW DID HE KNOW THAT THIS MALE SPENT THE NIGHT? WHO SAW HIM ARRIVE QUOTE AT ABOUT 9 P.M., UNQUOTE AS STATED IN POLICE REPORT; LEAVE THE ROOM; WHEN? WHEN DID BISSELL LEAVE THE ROOM ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 2 AND HOW DOES THAT COMPARE TO WHEN THE MALE ALLEGEDLY LEFT? CAN AMERICAN EMBASSY MAKE ANY

ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY HIM, IF IN FACT HE WAS AN AMERICAN
AS RIVERA SAID?

8. IF A MALE SPENT THE NIGHT, HE IS THE LAST ONE KNOWN
TO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH BISSELL AND HE IS ESSENTIAL TO
THE INVESTIGATION. HAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MET
AFTER THEY SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER BEEN RULED OUT? IF

SO, WHY?

9. CROUCH MUST HAVE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT MALE FOREIGN
NATIONAL TRAVELING COMPANION WHO APPARENTLY WAS WITH
BISSELL AND CROUCH DURING OCTOBER 1 TRIP IN TAXI FROM
COCA TO QUITO. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AND WHO IS HE? NO
WHERE IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT CROUCH PROVIDED EITHER
LOCAL POLICE OR EMBASSY STAFF WITH ANY INFORMATION
PERTINENT TO THE INVESTIGATION, YET THE GIRLS HAD CONTACT
WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

10. HOW IS IT KNOWN THAT THE MALE FOREIGN NATIONAL WHOM
BISSELL ALLEGEDLY SPENT THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 2ND WITH IN
BANOS CAME FROM TENO, AS STATED IN POLICE REPORT AND
WHAT ELSE IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM?

11. DID BISSELL TELL THE ASSISTANT TAXI DRIVER JOSE
GUEVARA IN QUITO THAT SHE CAME FROM BANOS AND WAS GOING
TO TULCAN, AS POLICE REPORT STATES, WHEN SHE, IN FACT,
CAME FROM COCA WHERE THAT VERY SAME TAXI APPARENTLY
PICKED HER UP AND WHEN SHE WAS APPARENTLY GOING TO BANOS
WHERE SHE TURNED UP THE FOLLOWING DAY?

12. THERE IS APPARENTLY A SERIOUS DISCREPANCY OVER WHO
FIRST NOTIFIED THE POLICE, WHEN AND WHY? ACCORDING TO
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THE POLICE REPORT TRANSLATION, THE OWNER OF THE PENSION
CHAMAQUITA IN BANOS INFORMED THE POLICE OF BISSELL'S
DISAPPEARANCE WHEN THE QUOTE NEXT DAY SHE DISAPPEARED AND
IT WAS A SUPRISE TO FIND ALL HER BELONGINGS. UNQUOTE. THE
PRECISE CHRONOLOGY IS UNCLEAR IN THE POLICE REPORT, WHICH
DOES STATE THAT MS. CROUCH ARRIVED MONDAY, OCTOBER 11.

IN A LETTER TO THE BISSELLS, MS. CROUCH STATED THAT SHE
ARRIVED IN BANOS OCTOBER 5 AND INFORMED LOCAL POLICE ON
THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 6TH. THAT INFORMATION IS ALSO
CONTAINED IN STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE TO BISSELLS.

WHY SHOULD THE OWNER OF THE PENSION CHAMAQUITA HAVE BEEN
SURPRISED TO FIND ALL BISSELL'S BELONGINGS AT ANY TIME
BEFORE OCTOBER 5 WHEN SHE HAD CHECKED INTO THE PENSION

FOR THREE DAYS, OCTOBER 2, 3, 4TH. HOW WAS PENSION OWNER ABLE TO PINPOINT THE FACT THAT SHE DISAPPEARED THE QUOTE NEXT DAY, UNQUOTE WHEN HER ABSENCE AT THAT TIME PRIOR TO OCTOBER 5TH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNEVENTFUL AND HARDLY WORTHY OF NOTICE, UNLESS THERE WERE OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES UNKNOWN TO US? WHEN DID PENSION OWNER INFORM POLICE OF BISSELL'S DISAPPEARANCE AND HOW DID HE COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?

13. THE POLICE REPORT INDICATES LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONDUCTED AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH TO DETERMINE BISSELL'S TRAVELS AND WHEREABOUTS AT ALL TIMES LEADING UP TO HER DISAPPEARANCE OCTOBER 3RD. ABOUT 95 OF POLICE REPORT DEALS WITH THIS AND PRECIOUS LITTLE WITH ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING EVENTS OF OCTOBER 2 AND 3RD. YET, IF CROUCH ARRIVED IN BANOS ON OCTOBER 5TH, THE FIRST DAY THAT BISSELL'S DISAPPEARANCE WOULD HAVE SEEMED UNUSUAL, SHE COULD HAVE RECOUNTED PRECISELY FOR POLICE THEIR TRAVELS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE HAD ONLY TO CONFIRM THAT INFORMATION. WHY IS THERE SUCH A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT DEVOTED TO DETERMINING THINGS SO READILY AVAILABLE FROM MS. CROUCH, IF INDEED SHE WAS IN BANOS OCTOBER 5TH. AN ERROR AS GLARING AS THIS ONE APPEARS TO BE, IN MY OPINION, CASTS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF OTHER ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THAT POLICE REPORT AND THE SO-CALLED INVESTIGATION.

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14. THE STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE AND CROUCH LETTER TO THE BISSELLS MENTION THAT J. BISSELL'S CAMERA WERE AMONG HER EFFECTS LEFT IN HER HOTEL ROOM. HAS ANY ATTEMPT BEEN MADE TO PROCESS THE FILM IN THAT CAMERA AND IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS IN THE PHOTOS. ARE EITHER OF THE MALE FOREIGN NATIONALS MENTIONED PRESENT IN ANY OF THE FRAMES; OR ANY ONE ELSE? WAS THERE FILM IN THE CAMERA? IF NOT, WHERE IS THE EXPOSED FILM?

15 THE POLICE REPORT INDICATES THAT BISSELL STAYED IN A HOUSE ON MALDONADO ST., IN BANOS, SINCE THERE WAS NO ROOM AT THE PENSION CHAMAQUITA. WAS THE PENSION, IN FACT, FILLED? WHEN CROUCH FOUND HER EFFECTS WERE THEY IN THE HOUSE ON MALDONADO ST., OR IN THE HOTEL? IN HER LETTER TO THE BISSELLS, MS. CROUCH SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT JANE STAYED IN THE HOTEL, ALTHOUGH THAT, AGAIN, IS IMPRECISE AND COULD HAVE BEEN AN OVERSIGHT ON HER PART OR A FAILURE TO CLARIFY THAT JANE STAYED AT ANOTHER LOCATION, WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOTEL, SOMETHING ELSE THAT IS NOT SPECIFIED.

16. WHEN JANE LEFT THE ROOM ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 3,
WHERE WAS SHE HEADING; WHERE DID SHE HAVE BREAKFAST; WHO
SAW HER LEAVE AND HOW WAS IT DETERMINED THAT SHE DID NOT
RETURN THAT DAY OR AT ANY OTHER TIME? KISSINGER

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